

**From:** Sam Barnum  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Obvious Problems with MS

The primary issues with Microsoft's practices are

- \* Prohibiting hardware vendors from offering products that compete with Microsoft products
- \* Using its monopoly to leverage closed, proprietary data formats, and exclude competing, standards-based formats.
- \* Extremely poor security on homogenous server software which could lead to huge disruptions of internet traffic.

The first seems to be the easier issue to deal with. Open up the OEM agreements with hardware vendors, expose any shady/unethical goings-on.

The second case is probably the more harmful of the two. It comes down to playing nice, and acting as part of the information systems community rather than a corporate predator. Microsoft seems to view all technology as something to be supplanted/assimilated rather than utilized within a framework. Abandonment of Samba and Java, development of Internet-Explorer-only websites (including MSNCB), and the undermining of the TCP/IP protocol with Denial-of-service-friendly Windows XP are some of the more troubling examples that come to mind.

If Microsoft were not a monopoly, the above behavior would be laughably self-destructive for any company. However, when Microsoft flouts standards, those standards lose a lot of their meaning.

Anyway, I appreciate the chance to voice my concerns, good luck to you.

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